Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the application:

1.   (currently amended) A computer implemented method for gleaning file attributes independently of file format, the method comprising the steps of:

a non-application specific file attribute manager receiving a plurality of files in a plurality of formats;

the file attribute manager scanning the plurality of received files in the plurality of formats;

the file attribute manager gleaning <u>file</u> attributes concerning each of the plurality of scanned files in the plurality of formats;

the file attribute manager storing gleaned <u>file</u> attributes concerning each of the plurality of scanned files as records in a database; and

the file attribute manager indexing <u>specific file</u> attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to contents of that file.

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the specific gleaned <u>file</u> attributes concerning [[a]] <u>the</u> specific file are a function of a protocol according to which the <u>specific</u> file is transmitted.

3.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:

the specific gleaned <u>file</u> attributes concerning [[a]] <u>the</u> specific file are a function of the format of that <u>specific</u> file.

4.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

the file attribute manager indexing <u>specific file</u> attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to a secure hash of the contents of that <u>specific</u> file.

5.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

the file attribute manager indexing <u>specific file</u> attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to a cyclical redundancy check of the contents of that <u>specific</u> file.

6.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

the file attribute manager receiving a plurality of copies of the same file; and

the file attribute manager storing a separate record for each received copy of the file, each <u>separate</u> record being indexed according to the contents of the file, such that each <u>separate</u> record can be accessed by <s>the</s> <u>a</u> single index.

7.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

deleting records from the database after the records have been stored for a specific period of time.

8.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the non-application specific file attribute manager is incorporated into at least one of the following:

a firewall;

an intrusion detection system;

an intrusion detection system application proxy;

a router;

a switch;

a standalone proxy;

a server;

a gateway;

an anti-virus detection system;

a client.

9.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium containing a computer program product for gleaning file attributes independently of file format, the computer program product comprising program code for:

receiving a plurality of files in a plurality of formats;

scanning the plurality of received files in the plurality of formats;

gleaning <u>file</u> attributes concerning each of the plurality of scanned files in the plurality of formats;

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storing gleaned file attributes concerning each of the plurality of scanned files as records in a database; and

indexing file attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to contents of that specific file.

10.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:

program code for gleaning specific file attributes concerning a specific file as a function of a protocol according to which the specific file is transmitted.

11.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:

program code for gleaning specific file attributes concerning a specific file as a function of the format of that specific file.

12.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:

program code for indexing file attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to a secure hash of the contents of that specific file.

13.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:

program code for indexing file attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to a cyclical redundancy check of the contents of that specific file.

14.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:

program code for receiving a plurality of copies of the same file; and

program code for storing a separate record for each received copy of the file, each separate record being indexed according to the contents of the file, such that each separate record can be accessed by the a single index.

15.   (original) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:

program code for deleting records from the database after the records have been stored for a specific period of time.

16. (currently amended) A computer system for gleaning file attributes independently of file format, the computer system comprising:

a reception module, configured to receive a plurality of files in a plurality of formats;

a scanning module, configured to scan the plurality of received files in the plurality of formats, the scanning module being communicatively coupled to the reception module;

a gleaning module, configured to glean <u>file</u> attributes concerning each of the plurality of scanned files in the plurality of formats, the gleaning module being communicatively coupled to the scanning module;

a storage module, configured to store gleaned <u>file</u> attributes concerning each of the plurality of scanned files as records in a database, the storage module being communicatively coupled to the gleaning module; and

an indexing module, configured to index <u>file</u> attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to contents of that <u>specific</u> file, the indexing module being communicatively coupled to the storage module.

17. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:

the gleaning module is further configured to glean specific <u>file</u> attributes concerning a specific file which are a function of a protocol according to which the <u>specific</u> file is transmitted.

18. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:

the gleaning module is further configured to glean specific <u>file</u> attributes concerning a specific file which are a function of the format of that <u>specific</u> file.

19. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:

the indexing module is further configured to index <u>file</u> attributes being stored as a record in the database concerning a specific file according to a secure hash of the contents of that <u>specific</u> file.

20.   (currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:

the indexing module is further configured to index file attributes being stored as a
record in the database concerning a specific file according to a cyclical
redundancy check of the contents of that specific file.

21.   (currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:

the reception module is further configured to receive a plurality of copies of the
same file; and

the storage module is further configured to store a separate record for each
received copy of the file, each separate record being indexed according to the
contents of the file, such that each separate record can be accessed by the a
single index.

22.   (original) The computer system of claim 16 further comprising:

a deletion module, configured to delete records from the database after the
records have been stored for a specific period of time, the deletion module
being communicatively coupled to the storage module.

23.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

examining a file, the file having been processed by the non-application specific
file attribute manager;

retrieving at least one stored record concerning the file from the database;

analyzing gleaned file attributes concerning the file, the gleaned file attributes
having been retrieved from at least one record concerning the file in the
database; and

responsive to analyzing the gleaned file attributes, determining a status
concerning the file.

24.   (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:

responsive to determining the status of the received file to be malicious, blocking
the file.

25.   (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:

responsive to determining the status of the received file to be legitimate, not blocking the file.

26. (original) The method of claim 23 further comprising:
applying at least one rule specifying how to use gleaned file attributes to process the file.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 further comprising
determining at least one of a plurality of rules to apply specifying how to use gleaned file attributes to process the file.